



EXHIBIT 8  
DATE 2/22/2013  
HB 467

Municipal Court  
228 Broadway  
Helena, MT 59623  
Telephone: 447-8465 Fax: 447-8265  
E-mail: bwood@ci.helena.mt.us

## City of Helena

---

February 22, 2013

Re: HB 467

Members of the Committee:

I am sorry I cannot be with you in person to support my colleague and friend Judge Swingley and others in Judge Swingley's position. I am taking telephonic plea changes from Defendants in a protest case which originated at the Capital. The calls are scheduled from all over the nation this morning.

I strenuously oppose HB 467

I am a Judge in a Municipal Court and I am an attorney. I love this court and my community. I believe that the people who come here deserve their rights and to be treated with dignity and common sense. Our dealings with citizens are as varied as might be imagined. The systems and those of us in it are not perfect. Though I am an attorney and value and treasure my training and experience, the bulk of what I have learned is from working as a prosecutor and now as a judge. Our judges have a stringent training program involving two schools per year with approximately 35 hours of continuing education. We are required to take recertification examinations every four years. Those requirements are more strict than any attorney or other judge, I believe.

This Bill would create an unnecessary burden on small counties with limited budgets. Well-trained judges whether attorneys or not have close ties to the community, good training and the ability to deal logically and legally with the issues they have to face. That is the duty we owe our communities, attorney or not. Please vote no on HB 467.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bob Wood', written in a cursive style.

Bob Wood,

Municipal Judge